

Counter-Top Basket



Base: 4 ½" x 9" Filled
Front: 3 ½"
Back: 7 ½"

Materials:

- 5 pieces @ 30" – ½" flat reed (horizontal stakes)
- 9 pieces @ 25" – ½" flat reed (vertical stakes)
- 4 pieces @ 17" – 3/8" flat reed (bottom fillers)
- 1 piece @ 34" – ¼" flat reed (locking row)
- 5 pieces @ 34" – ½" flat reed (weavers)
- 9 pieces @ 28" – ½" flat reed (stair step weavers)
- 2 pieces @ 64" – #3 round reed (twining)
- 2 pieces @ 32" – ½" flat oval reed (inside & outside rims)
- 1 piece @ 30" - #3 sea grass (rim filler)
- 1 piece @ 7' – 1/4" flat reed (lasher)

Soak the stake pieces, bottom fillers pieces and locking row for several minutes until pliable. Find the rough sides and centers. Lay the 5 – 28" pieces out horizontally in front of you. Lay the 4 filler pieces in between the stakes. Lift horizontal stake #'s 1, 3, and 5, and slide the center vertical stake underneath the three lifted stakes and over the fillers and their stakes. (Always treat the bottom fillers and the stakes in between the fillers as single stakes when over and under weaving.) Weave four vertical stakes to the right of center and four to the left of center. Square up the base to 4" x 8 ½". Crisscross fold the ends of the filler pieces and tuck them into the third vertical stake from each end on the bottom of the basket, clipping them to hide under the stakes. Over and under weave the ¼" locking row around the stake pieces. Upsett the stakes.

Soak the weavers for several minutes. Over and under weave 5 rows of ½" flat reed. Now you will begin increasing the basket on three sides. Begin your weaving on the stake at the farthest left on one of the long sides. Bend the weaver back on its self and hide the end in the weaving. Weave along the long side, across the back, and along the other long side ~ ending at the stake on the farthest right. Again bend the weaver back on its self and tuck the end in the weaving. On the next row begin with the stake second to the end and do the same ending around on the other side second stake from the right. Continue 7 more rows decreasing one stake at the start and finish of each row.

Twine two rows of #3 round reed around the top of the basket. Fold and tuck all of the stakes to the inside of the basket, clipping them if they are too long to hide down in several rows of weaving.

Soak and fit the inside and outside rims overlapping the ends 3" on opposite sides of the basket. Sandwich the #3 sea grass rim filler in between the rims. **Single-lash** the rims and filler tightly with the 1/4" flat reed lasher.

The basket pictured was finished by first staining the whole thing in a dark oil stain. After it dried the basket was painted with a water-based craft paint and rubbed with a rag dipped in linseed oil (while the paint was wet).

Sign and date your basket. *Good job!*

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